

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A system for treating patients suffering from a neuropsychiatric disorder, comprising

a pulse generator capable of generating a predetermined sequence of electrical pulses to stimulate the right and left branches of the vagus nerve of the patient to ameliorate symptoms of the neuropsychiatric disorder, and

at least ~~one electrode~~ two electrodes electrically coupled to the pulse generator, said ~~electrode~~ at least two electrodes being adapted to be implanted in the patient's body and coupled, respectively, to ~~[[a]] one of the right and left branches of the~~ vagus nerve of the patient at a location in a range from about two to about three inches above or below the patient's diaphragm, for delivering said electrical pulses ~~ameliorating symptoms of the neuropsychiatric disorder in the patient~~.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said pulse generator is programmable to enable physician programming of a plurality of parameters defining said sequence of electrical pulses.

25. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein ~~the at least one~~ said at least two electrode is electrodes are adapted for attaching, respectively, to the left and right branches of the patient's vagus nerve for direct stimulation thereof.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said at least ~~one electrode is~~ two electrodes are adapted to be attached to a portion of the patient's body remote from the right and left branches of the vagus nerve to indirectly stimulate the vagus nerve.

28. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, including activation means associated with the pulse generator for enabling patient activation of the pulse generator to stimulate the right and left branches of the vagus nerve.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said neuropsychiatric disorder is selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia, depression, borderline personality disorder, and related disorders.

30. (Currently amended) Apparatus for treating patients suffering from a neuropsychiatric disorder selected from the group consisting of ~~schizophrenia~~, depression, borderline personality disorder, and related disorders, said apparatus comprising

a pulse generator ~~capable of generating~~ adapted to generate an electrical signal for stimulating the right and left branches of the vagus nerve of the patient to ameliorate symptoms of the neuropsychiatric disorder; and

at least ~~one electrode~~ two electrodes adapted to be implanted in a patient to treat the neuropsychiatric disorder by applying the electrical signal generated by said pulse generator to the patient's right and left branches of the vagus nerve, wherein each said electrode of said at least two electrodes is coupled to said pulse generator and is adapted to be attached, respectively, to one of said branches of the vagus nerve at ~~a location~~ locations in a range from about two to about three inches above or below the patient's diaphragm, for delivering said electrical signal ~~relieving symptoms of the neuropsychiatric disorder~~.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said pulse generator is adapted to be programmed by an attending physician to provide electrical parameters defining said electrical signal.

32. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein each of said at least ~~one electrode~~ two electrodes is connected to an electrical lead of sufficient length to enable said electrode to be attached to at least one of the left and right branches of said vagus nerve at said location.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said system further comprises a programming unit coupled to said pulse generator for programming a plurality of parameters to define said electrical signal.

34. (Currently amended) A system for treating a patient having a neuropsychiatric disorder comprising:

Application No.: 10/661,641
Response to Office Action dated June 7, 2006

a pulse generator ~~capable of generating~~ adapted to generate an electrical signal to stimulate the right and left branches of the vagus nerve of the patient to treat symptoms of the neuropsychiatric disorder;

~~at least one implanted electrode, coupled to the pulse generator and attached to a vagus nerve of the patient at a location below the patient's diaphragm, for applying said electrical signal to said vagus nerve to treat said neuropsychiatric disorder~~ a first electrode coupled to the pulse generator and coupled to the right branch of the vagus nerve of the patient at a location below the patient's diaphragm, for applying said electrical signal to the right branch of the vagus nerve to treat said neuropsychiatric disorder;

a second electrode coupled to the pulse generator and coupled to the left branch of the vagus nerve of the patient at a location below the patient's diaphragm, for applying said electrical signal to the left branch of the vagus nerve to treat said neuropsychiatric disorder; and

a programming unit for programming said pulse generator to define said electrical signal.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34 wherein said pulse generator is implanted in the body of the patient.

36. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34 wherein said ~~pulse generator~~ programming unit is external to the body of the patient and is wirelessly coupled to said at least one electrode.

37. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34 wherein said programming unit is capable of programming at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of current magnitude, frequency, pulse width, on-time and off-time.